



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat

Happenings

September/October 2005

Extreme Trees

Robin Grumm, Naturalist

People are fascinated with facts and figures, especially those on either end of the spectrum. We like extremes and nature provides many for us.

The fire tower at Runge stands at 55 feet. That's tall! Imagine stacking another fire tower on top and you would have a 110 foot tower. That is extremely tall and that's the height of one of the champion trees in Missouri. Many champion trees stand at 100 feet or more. The tallest and most extreme is 150 feet. That tree is a pumpkin ash and it can be found growing in Big Oak Tree State Park down near the "Bootheel" of Missouri. In fact, Big Oak Tree State Park is the home of seven state champion tree species and two are registered as national champions. That is one extremely lucky park!

No need to travel to extremes to find champions. We have some homegrown champions in our backyard. The champion American elm tree grows on private property in Cole County. It stands at 73 feet and measures 255 inches in circumference. Many old fire towers were about that tall! Boone County is the home of the champion Burr oak tree which stands at 84 feet and measures 289 inches in circumference. This tree is also on private property, but can be seen 1 mile northwest of McBaine along Burr Oak Road. Some of the staff from Runge visited this majestic oak tree and it took five of us holding hands to hug the big old tree. That was extremely funny looking!

Each tree species grows at a different rate and will attain a different height and circumference. Not all will become champions; however, each one is an

amazing natural phenomenon and deserves our attention and respect. We are extremely fortunate to have some very old oak trees at Runge. While none of our century-plus oak trees have made it to the champion level, they are nonetheless *our* champions. They have weathered the course of time in more ways than one. We depend on them for the habitats they create and the beauty they lend to us. Do something extreme today and take a hike. Walk Towering Oak trail and step back in time. While you enjoy the shade of the big old trees along the trail imagine a time long ago when they were wee saplings. Oh, the stories they could tell if only they could talk. Now that would be taking it to an extreme!



White oak tree on Naturescape Trail at Runge Nature



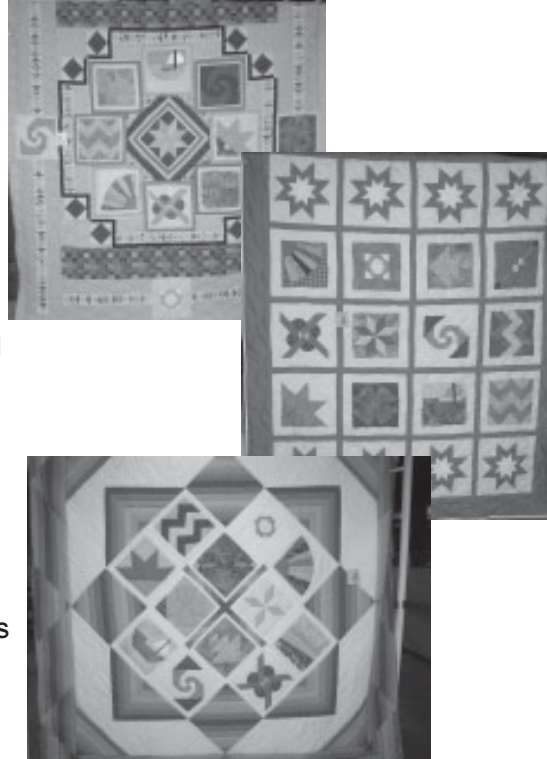
Volunteer News

Announcing . . . Nature's Needlers!

Nature's Needlers is a new monthly program at Runge designed to help people appreciate nature through fabric. Each month, participants will learn about a new nature topic and will receive instructions on how to complete a quilt block.

Nature's Needlers is coordinated by four Runge Volunteers—Vicki Oeldrich, Sonya Hollingsworth, Pam Muffi, and Anita Hammann. The program is restricted to those age 50 and above, and reservations are required.

Please see program descriptions for Nature's Needlers' topics for September and October.



Temporary Displays

Missouri Wildlife Artists' Society

Stop by the nature center during September and October to view artwork from members of the Missouri Wildlife Artists' Society.

Runge Staff

Nature Center Manager

Kathy Cavander

Interpretive Programs Supervisor

Kevin Lohraff

Naturalists

Robin Grumm

Trana Madsen

Alane Dubbert

Amber Edwards

Support Staff

Donna Wankum

Stacy Kemper

Adam Patton

Peggy Adkisson

Jenni Morris

Maintenance Staff

Kent Fischer

Dale Morris

Clarence Hohman

Melvin Beck

Tim Giboney



Champion Tree

Bur oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Bur oaks are slow growing, but long lived. They may reach up to 600 years of age. The common name, bur, is used to reference the shaggy, fringed acorn.

This champion tree may be found along Burr Oak Road, one mile northwest of McBaine.

Nature Shop News 20% OFF

Conservation Trails



A variety of trails are available on our conservation areas throughout the state. With this trail guide you'll explore 86 of our most popular trails. Discounted price: \$4.00 plus tax

Heritage card discount does not apply.

Runge Conservation Nature Center is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00AM to 5:00PM and Noon to 5:00PM on Sundays. No admission fee. 573/526-5544. www.missouriconservation.org

Habitat Happenings

Conservation Kids' Club



Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our meeting and we'll sign you up. No reservations required to attend.

Wild Edibles...Look, Smell, Taste, Discover Nature's Buffet

Tuesday, September 20 — 6:30-8:00PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Ever wonder why birds love to munch on seeds and berries, or why deer devour our favorite trees like persimmon and pecan? Because they are "DELICIOUS" to eat! Attend this Kids' Club program and experience the natural foods you can find in your own backyard. We will tromp on a trail, make a recipe book, and taste a wild edible buffet.

Hunting the Safe and Sound Way!!

Tuesday, October 18— 6:30-8:00PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Calling all kids. . .are you curious about hunting or target shooting?

These outdoor sports can lead to a lifetime of memories by creating your own hobby, competing in target shoots, or passing on family traditions. Good memories are formed by hunting the safe and sound way!

Tonight, you will learn the right way to hunt or target shoot. This program will include a safety trail, pellet guns, and a laser shot taught by experienced conservation agents and staff. We look forward to seeing you.



Hey, Parents!

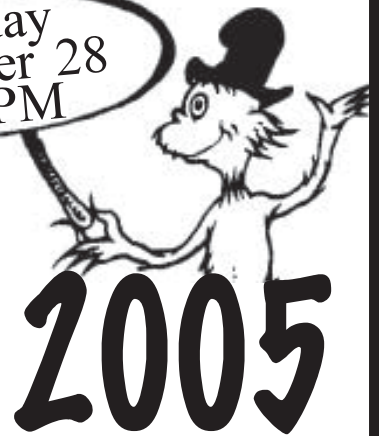
*While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30PM** and **Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30PM**. No reservations required.*

Dr. Seuss is on the loose!



Oh, the places you'll go
The things you will see!
RUNGE has it all
Don't you agree?

Friday
October 28
6-9PM



Haunted Habitats 2005

See October events for more details.



Habitat Happenings

Runge Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 64102

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Jefferson City Missouri
Permit No. 274

September Events



To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on September 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

Walk and Talks

Every Monday and Wednesday

Time: 5:15-5:45PM

Ages: Adults

We'll walk out and talk out the day's stress on Runge's outer trail. We'll take mental notes of the changes in nature. We'll take note of the subtle changes in ourselves. Join a volunteer naturalist for a health walk in transition from work to home. **No walk on September 7th.** No reservations required.

8 Thursday

Plant a Seed, Create A Habitat

Time: 7:00-8:00PM

Ages: Adults

Mervin Wallace from Missouri Wildflowers Nursery will talk about how, where, and when to gather seeds from native plants. He will explain how to use the seeds to maximize habitat for birds and other wildlife. If you have space in your yard, you can make a difference. Sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.


10 Saturday

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

See splendid sights! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

Established in 1924 to honor Monroe County's native son, **Mark Twain State Park** is the third oldest state park in Missouri. After an orientation at the Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site, where the Clemens family belongings and cabin is protected, we'll hit the trail. The **White Oak Trail** (6 miles  hikers) winds around a peninsula of 18,600-acre Mark Twain Lake and is a great trail for lake overlooks, wildflowers, and a chance to spot the striking red-headed woodpecker in the ghost forest coves. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

11 Sunday

Puppet Show: A Fungus Among Us Tree Dwellers

Time: 2:00-2:30PM

Ages: All

The Runge puppeteers bring Fungus to life in this encore presentation. Fungus is worried about what he is doing to the tree where he lives. He thinks he is doing damage. Not to worry! Chipmunk, Bluebird, Gray Squirrel, and others join Fungus to explain how they all live and work together - for good! No reservations required.



Teachers, Check out the MDC website for information on Conservation Field Trip Grants. This grant program is designed to reimburse you for transportation to Runge Conservation Nature Center or other sites where your students focus on fish, wildlife, and/or natural habitats. www.MissouriConservation.org

Habitat Happenings

14 Wednesday

Forester Badge

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: Cub Scout - Webelos
Reservations required.



15 Thursday

Nature's Needlers

Time: 10:30AM-Noon and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 years and older

Join us as we learn about Missouri's champion trees and embark on a new phase of capturing natural images in fabric. Supplies needed: a towel or 20" square of muslin and pins. Reservations required.

15 Thursday

Hunter Education

Time: 6:00-9:00PM

Ages: 11 years and older

This 10-hour certification course is required of every hunter born after January 1, 1967. *Continues on Friday, September 16, 6:00-9:30PM, and concludes on Saturday, September 17, 8:00AM-Noon. Reservations accepted starting August 15th.* Reservations required.

16 Friday

Missouri's Missing Mammals

Time: 7:00-8:00PM

Ages: 8 years and older

Where have all Missouri's big mammals gone? Once, bison roamed our prairies, wolves trekked through our hills, and elk grazed our grasslands. These mammals no longer call Missouri home. Some mammals have returned to Missouri...could others? Come and learn about the history of the fascinating mammals in Missouri, and the outlook on a future for them here. Reservations required.

24 Saturday

Firearms Safety for Youth Hunters

Time: 9:30AM-Noon

Ages: 6-10 years

Make sure your youth are safe during the hunting season. We will cover the commandments of firearms and safety, safe methods for carrying a firearm, and tree stand safety. This is **NOT** a hunter education course. Reservations required.

24 Saturday

Beginning Deer Hunting

Time: 1:00PM-4:30PM

Ages: All

Ever wished you knew how to hunt deer? We will go over the basics of deer hunting for beginners, from tags to scouting, to clothing, and hunting methods. Reservations required.

For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Saturday, September 10 – 10:00AM

Friday, September 16 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, September 20 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Friday, September 9 – 1:00PM

Tuesday, September 13 – 10:00AM

Thursday, September 22 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, September 27 – 10:00AM

Rainbow Romp

Colors surround us, especially outdoors! As we walk a trail this month, we will become part of nature's painting and search for the colors of the rainbow. Reservations required.

25 Sunday

Beginning Archery

Time: 1:00-2:30PM and 3:00-4:30PM

Ages: 8 years and older

"I shoot an arrow into the air, and where it lands..." With a little practice we can help you hit the target. Join us at the nature center for some archery fun. We'll provide the equipment, instructions, and targets. Make a point to be here! Reservations required.

28 Wednesday

Earth and Sky Try-It

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: Girl Scout - Brownies

Reservations required.

Trail rating system for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club.



-Easiest trail—flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)



-Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)



-Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots



-Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots

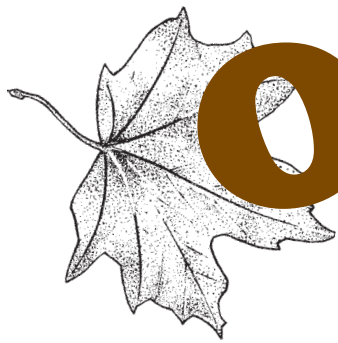


-Most difficult—significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks

Adventure Packs are BACK!



Runge Adventure Packs are available once again for check-out at the front desk. They have some new items to help you explore our trails. These packs are available for use everyday on a first-come, first-serve basis, so stop by today to try one out.



October Events

To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on October 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

Walk and Talks

Every Monday and Wednesday

Time: 5:15-5:45PM

Ages: Adults

We'll walk out and talk out the day's stress on Runge's outer trail. We'll take mental notes of the changes in nature. We'll take note of the subtle changes in ourselves. Join a volunteer naturalist for a health walk in transition from work to home. **No walks on October 10th and 31st.** No reservations required.

2 Sunday

Wild Edibles

Time: 1:00-2:30PM

Ages: 8 years and older

Nature's bounty is ripe for the tasting! There is a wide variety of delicious edibles to identify and taste at this program. We'll discuss collecting tips, hike to test our identification skills, then return to the nature center for a wild feast. Bring your appetites! Reservations required.

6 Thursday

Hunter Education

Time: 6:00PM-9:00PM

Ages: 11 years and older

This 10-hour certification course is required of every hunter born after January 1, 1967. *Continues on Friday, October 7, 6:00-9:30PM, and concludes on Saturday, October 8, 8:00AM-Noon. Reservations accepted starting August 15th.* Reservations required.

9 Sunday

Wild Heart Concert

Time: 2:00-3:00PM

Ages: All

We welcome back to the Runge stage Emmy® Award winning songwriter Jan Syrigos and husband George Syrigos, releasing their much anticipated second album... **WildHeart.** Expect their wild variety of tunes including jazz, pop, swing, bluegrass and rap - chock full of facts and fun about our natural world. Wiggle with the *Armadillo Alphabet*, dance like an insect to the *Buzzy Wuzzy Buggy Boogie*, and make your Mom squirm with *Scit, Scat, Diddily Doo!* Learn the scoop on frogs and their cousins with *Amphibian Blues*. Launch into a wild and unforgettable musical journey through our natural world...with WildHeart! Reservations required.



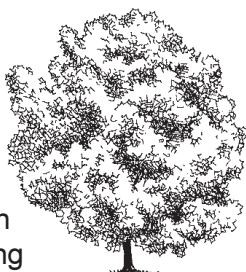
9 Sunday

Tree Stories

Time: 3:00-4:00PM

Ages: 13 years and older

People and trees share a rich history. Come learn interesting facts and folklore about trees as we enjoy the fall colors. Reservations required.



12 Wednesday

Achievement #5-Sharing Your World with Wildlife

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: Cub Scout - Bears

Reservations required.

Habitat Happenings

13 Thursday

Earth Connections Badge

Time: 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: Girl Scouts - Juniors

Reservations required.

13 Thursday

Tree Swallow Adventures

Time: 7:00-8:00PM

Ages: Adults


Tree swallows are absolutely amazing flying machines. Fortunately, they can be found in abundant numbers at Binder Lake near Jefferson City—thanks to Julie and Jim Lundsted. The Lundsteds have provided the tree swallows with a large number of houses. Learn more about these fascinating birds as Julie tells how their housing project got started and grew...and grew! Sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

15 Saturday

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

The Lincoln Hills are a band of uplifted limestone hills about 15 miles wide and 60 miles long. What's unusual about them is that they are surrounded by the glaciated plains of north Missouri. We'll hike hill after hill, each separated by a deep "V", on the **Lone Spring Trail** (6 miles  hikers) at **Cuivre River State Park**. We'll find pawpaw, bloodroot, ginger, and golden seal on the shaded, moist forest floor. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 Saturday

Beginning Archery

Time: 10:00-11:30AM and 1:30PM-3:00P

Ages: 8 years and older

"I shoot an arrow into the air, and where it lands..." With a little practice we can help you hit the target. Join us at the nature center for some archery fun. We'll provide the equipment, instructions, and targets. Make a point to be here! Reservations required.

19 Wednesday

Paper Making

Time: 6:30-8:30PM

Ages: Adults

Recycle your newspaper, magazines, and even that unwanted junk mail. In this program, you will make a couple sheets of your own paper while learning about the different techniques and endless possibilities of making paper at home. Reservations required.

19 Wednesday

Deer Processing

Time: 6:30-8:00PM

Ages: All

Going deer hunting? Then join us at the nature center to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year. We'll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions you have about do-it-yourself processing. Reservations required.

For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Friday, October 7 – 10:00AM

Thursday, October 13 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, October 25 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Thursday, October 6 – 10:00AM

Saturday, October 8 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, October 18 – 10:00AM

Friday, October 21 – 10:00AM

Terrific Trees

Branch out this month and take a walk under our big trees. We will look up and down and all around at the trees along our trail. Reservations required.

20 Thursday

Nature's Needlers

Time: 10:30AM-Noon and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 years and older

We continue our exploration of Missouri's champion trees this month. Join us for a new interpretation of nature through fabric. Supplies needed: a towel or 20" square of muslin, cutting implements (scissor or rotary cutter/mat/rulers), and pins. Reservations required.

22 Saturday

Puppet Show: A Fungus Among Us Tree Dwellers

Time: 11:00-11:30AM

Ages: All

The Runge puppeteers bring Fungus to life in this encore presentation. Fungus is worried about what he is doing to the tree where he lives. He thinks he is doing damage. Not to worry! Chipmunk, Bluebird, Gray Squirrel, and others join Fungus to explain how they all live and work together - for good! No reservations required.

26 Wednesday

Watching Wildlife Try-It

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: Girl Scout - Brownies

Reservations required.

28 Friday

Haunted Habitats:

Dr. Seuss is on the loose!

Time: 6:00-9:00PM

Ages: All

Join us for a fun-filled evening!

- ◆ Exploration Trail for 3-7 years of age.
- ◆ Interpretative stations for all ages.
- ◆ Hands-on activities.
- ◆ Kettle Corn.
- ◆ Costume Corner with Photo opportunity.
- ◆ And lots more!

Rain date is October 29.

No reservations required.

